TC 2257

Memo

To: DFSE
From: JRH
Date: 9/10/85

Subject: Meeting with Under-Secretary-General R. Ahmed

1. I met with Mr. Ahmed, Special Rep of the SG for the Timor question, appointed under Res.37/30, on October 7, 1985, in his office in the Secretariat building, in NYC. Present was Mr. Annabi, his aid.

2. The meeting was termed informal, routine, accorded to me as a petitioner to the Special Committee on Decolonization. Ahmed made it clear that I was not being received within the framework of 37/30.

3. Whatever the terms of the meeting, it took place. This was a positive step. Important to note that even the current negotiations involving the Indons and PG are not being undertaken formally under 37/30. Indonesia had rejected the GA res and is negotiating with the SG and the Portuguese, in "parallel" with 37/30. The good-offices role of the SG is quite important in such situations when the parties to a conflict do not wish to appear as accepting a GA resolution. It is a save-face formula that allows negotiations to take place. Therefore, whatever the formula Mr. Ahmed decided to use to bring FRETILIN into the talks is acceptable at this stage.

4. I emphasized "at this stage" because our position should be one of flexibility in the early stages of the negotiation process so that we should not be accused of rocking the SG's efforts.

5. During my discussions with Ahmed, I praise SG's and his efforts in trying to bring about a negotiated solution. However, I explain to him in no uncertain terms that FRETILIN will not accept any solution that is not based on a genuine act of self-determination by the people of East Timor, under international supervision. I told Mr. Ahmed that the SG should not allow the UN to be blamed in the future for Indonesia's crimes. Why should the SG dirty his hands for a crime perpetrated by the Indonesians? The same argument I used with Gama. Of course, they understood the implication of my argument.

6. Mr. Ahmed explained to me the process of negotiations under way without adding anything new to the two "Progress Reports" already made public. He said that the next Report will faithfully reflect whatever developments will take place in the next round of negotiations.

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